

### 3.05 RAHAB AND THE SPIES

#### JOSHUA 2



God had asked Moses to lead His people, the Israelites, out of Egypt to Canaan, the promised land. When they were close to Canaan, Moses sent out twelve spies to have a look at the land. Two spies, Joshua and Caleb, said the land was good and the Israelites should fight for it. They told Moses that God had promised them the land and He would help them conquer it. But, ten of the spies were afraid. They convinced the people they would lose if there was a fight. The people were afraid. They did not trust God to do as He promised. Because of their doubt, God caused them to wander in the desert an extra forty years.

Many years passed. Once again, the people were getting close to Canaan. Moses was one hundred twenty years old. It was his time to die. The Israelites wept for Moses. God spoke to Joshua and told him to lead the people the rest of the way into the promised land. "I will be with you," said the Lord. "I won't leave you. I'll give you strength and courage. I will be with you every step of the way."

The people obeyed Joshua as they had obeyed Moses. "Everything you command us, we'll do. Wherever you send us, we'll go," they said.

Joshua sent out two spies to the town of Jericho, in the land of Canaan, to look around. The people in Jericho had already heard of the miracles God had done for His people. They had heard of God parting the sea for them to cross and escape their enemies from Egypt. They were afraid, just thinking about these Israelites coming to conquer Jericho.

There was a woman named Rahab who had a house there in Jericho. The spies came to her house to spend the night. The king sent a message to Rahab. "Bring out the men who came to spend the night at your house so we can arrest them. They are spies and have come to spy out our whole country."

Now, Rahab believed God had given the people of Israel the land of Canaan. She took the two spies and hid them on the roof of her house under some straw. She said to the king, "Yes. There were two men who stayed at my house, but I didn't know where they were from. When it became dark, they left. I have no idea where they went." Some of the king's men went down the road to see if they could find the two men.

Rahab went to the roof and got the two spies. "We all know about your God," she told them. "He is God of the heavens above and God of the earth below. Now give me a promise by the name of your God. Since I have saved you from being found, please do the same for my family. When you come to capture Jericho, please save us in return." The spies told her, "Here is what you must do. Hang this red rope out the window, the same as you are using to let us out your window to escape. When we see it hanging, we will rescue your whole family."

The men headed back. When they reached Joshua and told him what had happened, they said, "God has given us the whole country! Everyone is afraid of us!"

When the children of Israel came to capture Jericho, Joshua gave the order to save the lives of Rahab and her family because she was faithful to save the men. Because of her act of help to save God's people, God saved her and her family during the capture of Jericho.

### 3.05 RAHAB AND THE SPIES - TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### JOSHUA 2



#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) After Moses died, God told Joshua to lead the Israelites to the promised land. Joshua sent out two spies into Jericho to look around.
- 2) The two spies stayed at the house of Rahab. She hid them on her roof under some plants. Rahab believed that God was the God of heaven and earth.
- 3) The king asked Rahab if she had seen the spies. He knew all about the Israelites and how God had done miracles for them. He was afraid of what was going to happen.
- 4) Rahab said she had seen the men but didn't know where they were from and that they had already left the town.
- 5) Rahab asked the spies to rescue her and her family when the Israelites came to conquer Jericho. Because Rahab had rescued them, the spies promised they would also rescue her and her family.

#### QUESTIONS:

- 1) After Moses died, who did God tell to lead the Israelites to the promised land?
- 2) Two spies were sent into Jericho to have a look around. Who did they stay with?
- 3) What did Rahab tell the king when he asked her about the spies?
- 4) What did Rahab ask the spies to do for her when they came to conquer Jericho?

#### ANSWERS:

- 1) After Moses died, God told Joshua to lead the Israelites to the promised land.
- 2) The two spies stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab.
- 3) Rahab told the king the spies had stayed at her house, but they had left town.
- 4) Rahab asked the spies to rescue her and her family.